

Oklahoma Crop Weather



USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
Oklahoma Field Office

cooperating with Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

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Oklahoma Drought Conditions Critical

Lack of rain, above normal temperatures, and high winds during December caused moisture supplies to plummet. Ponds were drying up due to the lack of rain. This, combined with poor wheat pasture conditions, was forcing some producers to sell some of their cattle. Wildfires caused by the drought conditions were also taking a toll on pastures, hay supplies and livestock. Ninety-seven percent of the State reported topsoil moisture as very short to short last week, leaving only 3 percent of the State reporting adequate moisture conditions. Subsoil moisture was 9 percent adequate, 25 percent short and 66 percent very short.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
84	13	3	0

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
66	25	9	0

Small Grains: The extreme dry weather has made a negative impact on small grains. The continued dry weather and high winds have further delayed any new growth on wheat and rye pastures. Although 53 percent of the wheat ranged from fair to good condition, just under half of the wheat was in very poor to poor condition. This was a 29 point drop since the last condition report on November 28, 2005. Oats and rye took similar drops with 79 percent of the oats and 51 percent of the rye being in very poor to poor condition. Winter wheat grazed was at 29 percent, down significantly from last year at 50 percent and slightly below the five-year average at 31 percent. Rye grazed was at 58 percent, up from the normal of 44 percent, but down from last year at 65 percent.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Month Ending December 31, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	20	26	33	20	1
Rye	18	33	43	6	0
Oats	37	42	14	7	0

Pasture and Range: Pastures dropped to mostly fair to poor condition due to the unseasonably warm temperatures and limited rainfall. Preliminary reports indicate that nearly 300,000 acres have burned since November 1, 2005. Livestock grazing on wheat pastures has been limited in some areas due to lack of forage growth and not having rooted-down plants. Pasture and range conditions were at 1 percent excellent, 14 percent good, 31 percent fair, 28 percent poor and 26 percent very poor.

Livestock: Livestock conditions also deteriorated from 82 percent good on November 28, 2005 to 19 percent good on December 31, 2005. They were still in mostly fair condition. Forage supplies for cattle have been depleted in many pastures due to the lack of any regrowth. Fewer cattle were grazing on small grain pastures due to the decline of wheat conditions. The death loss of cattle was light to average. Hay supplies were rated as mostly average.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Month December 31, 2005

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	19	58	19	4
Pasture & Range	26	28	31	14	1

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Month Ending December 31, 2005

Item	2005	2004	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -			
Grazed	29	50	31
Oats -			
Grazed	4	17	20
Rye			
Grazed	58	65	44

Weather for Month Ending December 31, 2005 - Temperatures ranged from -15 degrees at Kenton on Thursday, December 8th, to 84 degrees at Durant on Saturday, December 3rd. Precipitation averaged 0.16 inches in the Panhandle district to 0.40 inches in the Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 25 degrees at Kenton on Thursday, December 8th, to 58 degrees at Idabel on Saturday, December 3rd.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Month Ending December 31, 2005

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	Current Month 12/01 – 12/31	September 1, 2005 to January 2, 2006		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	50	20	34	0.16	2.68	-2.48	52
West Central	50	25	37	0.28	4.24	-4.27	50
Southwest	53	26	39	0.18	5.96	-3.59	62
North Central	48	23	35	0.22	4.54	-4.69	49
Central	51	26	38	0.17	4.67	-8.01	37
South Central	55	28	41	0.22	5.63	-8.71	39
Northeast	48	24	36	0.40	4.94	-9.47	34
East Central	52	26	39	0.29	4.01	-12.64	24
Southeast	55	27	41	0.22	5.83	-13.02	31

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